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HB 1463, HD 1

EXCLUDING TREES INVOLVED IN COMMERCIAL FORESTRY OPERATIONS (RELATING TO EXCEPTIONAL TREES)

Statement for
Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing 21 March 1977

by
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HB 1463, HD 1 proposes an amendment to the State Exceptional Trees Act, Chapter 58, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This statement has been submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

The purpose of HB 1463, HD 1, is to prevent the Exceptional Trees Act from unduly restraining commercial forestry operations. Since exceptional trees are rare, the Act even in its present form could not possibly provide much restraint to timbering operations. As pointed out in an Environmental Statement on the original version of the bill (RL:0226, 11 March 1977), HB 1463 would have prevented the Act from saving truly exceptional trees, even exceptional koas or ohias, if they were within areas subject to commercial forestry operations.

In the form represented by HB 1463, HD 1, however, the only restriction to the designation of exceptional trees is that they cannot be "trees planted for commercial forestry operations." Even trees planted with the expectation they will later be harvested may perhaps become exceptional, and be worth saving, but this will very rarely be the case.

HB 1463, HD 1, is therefore a satisfactory bill, though it hardly seems necessary.